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## OLR Bill Analysis

### HB 5289

#### ***AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill increases the penalty for subsequent convictions for specified types of animal cruelty. Under existing law, violators may be fined up to \$1,000, imprisoned for up to one year, or both for a first or subsequent offense. The bill increases the penalties for subsequent offenses to a fine of up to \$5,000, imprisonment for up to five years, or both.

The bill applies to the following:

1. overdriving, overloading, overworking, torturing, depriving of sustenance, mutilating, cruelly beating or killing, or unjustifiably injuring any animal;
2. if impounding or confining an animal, (a) failing to provide it proper care; (b) neglecting to cage or restrain it from injuring itself or another animal; or (c) failing to supply it with wholesome air, food, and water;
3. unjustifiably administering or exposing a domestic animal to any poisonous or noxious drug or substance intending that the animal will take it;
4. if having custody of an animal, (a) inflicting cruelty on it; (b) failing to provide it with proper food, drink, or shelter; (c) abandoning it; or (d) carrying or causing it to be carried in a cruel manner; or
5. fighting with or baiting, harassing, or worrying an animal to make it perform for amusement, diversion, or exhibition.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 45 Nay 0 (04/02/2012)